

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

(Continued next page)

From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Reader Today's Psalm is Psalm 33:1-12. We will read it responsively, breaking at the asterisk. It can be on the screens or on page 622 in the BCP.

- 1 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous; *
 it is good for the just to sing praises.
- 2 Praise the LORD with the harp; *
 play to him upon the psaltery and lyre.
- 3 Sing for him a new song; *
 sound a fanfare with all your skill upon the trumpet.
- 4 For the word of the LORD is right, *
 and all his works are sure.
- 5 He loves righteousness and justice; *
 the loving-kindness of the LORD fills the whole earth.
- 6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, *
 by the breath of his mouth all the heavenly hosts.
- 7 He gathers up the waters of the ocean as in a water-skin *
 and stores up the depths of the sea.
- 8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; *
 let all who dwell in the world stand in awe of him.
- 9 For he spoke, and it came to pass; *
 he commanded, and it stood fast.

(Continued next page)

10 The LORD brings the will of the nations to naught; *
he thwarts the designs of the peoples.

11 But the LORD's will stands fast for ever, *
and the designs of his heart from age to age.

12 Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! *
happy the people he has chosen to be his own!

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he

gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**